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WITHDRAWN

NUMBER 12 DECEMBER, 1923

HARVARD LIBRARY NOTES

SHAKESPEARE

CAMBRIDGE: PRINTED AT THE
HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS

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NOTES

DECEMBER No. 12 1923

A FRIEND of the University purchased at the auction sale of books from the library of Professor Norton's daughters, last May, for the Library, eleven items of the highest importance for Harvard. One, which could not properly have found a permanent resting place anywhere else, is the original autograph manuscript of Professor Lowell's Oration at the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary exercises in November, 1886. With it is a note in Professor Norton's hand, 'Given by him to me that day. C. E. N.' Of even greater interest in many ways is one of the fifty printed copies of Lowell's 'Commemoration Ode,' given by him to Norton, with a number of additional lines added by the poet in his own handwriting.

Two other additions to the Library's Lowell first editions are a broadside containing his 'Ode for the Water Celebration' in Boston in October, 1848, and the London edition of the 'Biglow Papers, Second Series,' 1862.

A new Longfellow first edition is 'From my Arm-chair. To the Children of Cambridge,' 1879. A precious volume which by some curious chance had never come to the Library by gift, until now, is the 'Memorial' to Col. Robert Gould Shaw, printed by his family after his death at Fort Wagner. This copy contains a letter from Colonel Shaw's mother, presenting the volume to one of the contributors. Besides the above, the gift includes a volume of autograph poems written out for the anniversary celebration of the Old South Church in 1877, by Holmes,

Longfellow, Whittier, Edward Everett Hale, and James Freeman Clarke.

There were also several very important autograph letters written by Lowell to Emerson and by Emerson to Lowell, and a draft of a letter from Emerson to Carlyle.

* * *

THERE HAVE BEEN two recent sales at auction of books advertised as 'from the Library of Charles Eliot Norton.' A natural result has been a persistent belief that, inasmuch as it is widely known that Professor Norton's library was presented to the College Library by a number of his old students, Harvard was selling these precious association volumes because they were 'duplicates.' The books in question had been given by Professor Norton to his children, long before the purchase of his library for Harvard, and the recent auctions were a result of the settlement of their estates.

* * *

THE LIBRARIAN OF YALE wrote the following letter on November 8:

Dear Mr. Lane:

The Yale Alumnus, who purchased at the Sturges sale the Valedictory Oration of Jonathan Trumbull, Harvard 1759, learned recently that the Harvard Library had been the underbidder for the manuscript.

Our Alumnus tells me that if he had known that Harvard wanted the manuscript, he would certainly not have taken it away from you, and he now wishes to give it to Harvard, although he is unwilling to reveal his identity. He therefore gives the manuscript to me so that it may be sent to the Harvard Library as a gift from the Yale Library. . . . .

I will not attempt to hide the pleasure I feel in acting as the channel of communication.

Yours very sincerely,

Andrew Keogh.

Mr. Lane exhibited this precious manuscript at the meeting of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts on December 19. In explanation of its importance, he said that 'few of these early Commencement parts have been

preserved. It is a curious coincidence that two of those delivered in 1759 should have found their way to the Library, Trumbull's given by a Yale alumnus, and Wingate's, presented by the New York book dealer Walter R. Benjamin in 1901. Two letters from President Holyoke to Trumbull, one inviting and the other urging him to deliver the Valedictory Oration in 1762, when he returned with other members of his class to receive the Master's degree, were given in 1905 by Grosvenor S. Hubbard of New York, a great grandson of Governor Trumbull.'

The only other papers of the same kind which Mr. Lane has found among the archives of the University are the Latin Valedictory of 1736, the English Salutatory Oration of 1796, and the Valedictory of 1799, the last two both by Leonard Woods of the class of 1796. John Davis's 'Poetical Essay' delivered at Commencement in 1781 is well known. Apparently many copies were made of it, as four have found their way into the College archives.

* * *

ARTHUR D. TERRELL of Chicago has presented the Library, through Walter R. Spofford, '02, the manuscript diary kept by an ancestor when a young man just starting in business in the Mississippi Valley. The first entry reads, 'November 13, 1837. Here I am clerking in the city of Saint Louis. Nov. 13, 1836 where was I, clerk of the steam boat B. I. Gilman. Nov.13, 1835 I was at Alton.' His residence at Alton, which 'will I think become the emporium of Illinois,' for five years gives especial value to an account of the Alton Riots, occupying the first four pages. The Diary, which will be added to the Library's collection on Western History, covers the ensuing two years, and portrays, simply and at times with delightful naiveté, the doings and feelings of a young man looking for an opportunity to make his start in the world, both in business and in a family way. The latter had been postponed for a time, when the entries close, but he

had borrowed $1781.00 at 12 percent interest, and was able to record sales of $512.00 on credit and $346.00 cash, averaging $39.00 a day.

Three of the entries read;

'Monday 11th. Today received from I. A. R. by our faithful carrier Milory a note of warmest expressions of Love, enclosing a neatly platted lock of her hair, and sent her of mine in return, with pledge of everlasting fidelity,— but we are not to meet, bodily, though our minds are to meet every evening at Six o'clock, at which time we are mutually to think of each other.— I have now given her my pledge and it must be kept as Sacred, as if confirmed in law.

'Wednesday 13th. . . . Two evenings have passed since the appointment, the two first and both forgotten, each at least an hour.

'Thursday 14. 20 m. past 6 P. M. have redeemed myself. Weather today as yesterday, except a strong west wind.'

* * *

PROFESSOR R. DE MONTESSUS DE BALLORE of Paris, in the 'Index Generalis' of Libraries and Collections of Archives, prints a list of the 53 libraries containing over a half-million volumes. Of these, 16 are in the United States. The first five in his list are:

Paris, France, Bibliothèque Nationale	3,500,000 vols.
Washington, U.S.A., Library of Congress	2,918,256
New York, U.S.A., New York Public Library	2,637,505
London, England, British Museum Library	2,500,000
Cambridge, U.S.A., Harvard University Library	2,101,000

As was shown in the preceding issue of the NOTES, the Harvard figures, like those for New York, include books in several separate buildings. The only other American libraries listed as having more than the number in the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial building, the main Harvard Library, 1,175,000, are Yale, which ranks ninth in this list, and the Boston Public Library, which is tenth. Presumably the Yale count of 1,217,500 and Boston's 1,197,498 are, like the larger Harvard figures, inclusive of all the books belonging to the University or to the City.

MR. WINSHIP spoke at the first of a projected series of informal gatherings of faculty and students in the Chapin Library at Williams College, October 29, on the functions of a private library which does not lose its identity when it becomes a part of a college or university. He pointed out that the very remarkable collection of precious volumes, carefully selected to illustrate most of the lines that the book-collectors are apt to follow, recently given to Williams by Mr. Alfred C. Chapin, is one of a number of similar foundations. These provide the colleges with a new medium for inoculating undergraduates with some of the fundamentals of culture. The Chapin Library combines the essential characteristics of the Harry Elkins Widener Collection, housed so that it is the heart of the College Library, and the John Carter Brown Library at Providence and the William L. Clements Library at Ann Arbor which are in separate buildings. Other similar foundations are the Elizabethan Club at Yale, the Revere Osler Library at Johns Hopkins, and the William Osler Library at McGill.

* * *

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE Boston Group of Cataloguers and Classifiers is now an accomplished fact. On Tuesday, November 13, 105 members of the staffs of 39 libraries met at dinner in the Harvard Library. Most of the guests came from the Greater Boston area, but representatives were present from Yale, Brown University, Providence, and the Free Public Library of Worcester.

In the history of the Library this dinner was a noteworthy event, as no one had thought before of attempting anything just like it. Other and larger meetings may be held in the Library, but this one has the honor of being a pioneer. In spite of skeptical head-shaking, the long corridor on the ground floor leading to the Massachusetts Avenue door proved to be well adapted for the purpose of dining-room and meeting-place. An even larger number

of guests than were present could easily be seated. The lunch-room and kitchenette adjoining served admirably for the caterer's headquarters. The vaulted ceiling with the soft lights gleaming on the tiled walls; the long vista with the black rectangle of the glass door at the outer end, the clusters of dull crimson flowers on the tables, all made a pleasing if unusual picture. 'Like some old mediaeval setting' was the comment of one enthusiastic guest. Certainly those of us who saw this gay holiday appearance will never again find the lower corridor austere or forbidding. A ten minute intermission of chat and visiting after the dinner, gave ample opportunity for the caterer to whisk his tables out, while chairs were moved to cluster at the short cross corridors midway, from which the speakers could easily be heard.

After dinner, the Chairman, Miss Harriet E. Howe of Simmons College, introduced Mr. Lane, who made a short speech of welcome. The report of the organization Committee was read and adopted.

The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Currier, who spoke of the aims and methods employed in the Harvard catalogues, the special problems created by handling large collections, the fact that the subject side of the catalogue was selective rather than inclusive, the freedom from technical red tape, and the points where criticism might be expected as well as those in which he believed that a difficult situation was successfully met in an unusual manner. Miss Tucker spoke briefly on methods employed in filing at Harvard. The visitors adjourned to the Delivery Room, the Catalogue Department and to the Library of the Graduate School of Business Administration where by personal inspection of catalogues and in shop talk with members of the Library staff more intimate and particular details of professional and technical interest could be discussed and illustrated.

C. P. B.

HALLIWELLIANA

Few things in the routine of the Order Department are more puzzling than the way in which a subject in which the Library is particularly interested, and considers itself strong, will remain quiescent for months, and then suddenly come to life with opportunities for desirable purchases that tax all the available resources. A striking recent instance of this is the collection of 'Halliwelliana,' the publications of James Orchard Halliwell, later Halliwell-Phillipps. This was an especial hobby of Justin Winsor throughout his term as librarian, and ever since his day, the interleaved catalogue showing what the Library has and all known desiderata has always been kept within easy reach of Mr. Potter's desk. Of late years, however, the opportunities to secure anything not already at Harvard have averaged scarcely one a year, until the feeling that this particular subject could be relegated to a place of less-immediate attention, seemed to be justified.

Last spring, one of the Halliwell desiderata appeared in a New York auction catalogue. The Library's agent was asked to secure it, and bid for it at the sale until he was convinced that further competition would be useless, the price having already exceeded what seemed like a reasonable amount for it. The successful purchaser was a bookseller, and he was approached on behalf of the Library, and the reason for its desire to secure the prize explained to him, but as he had acted for a client who was equally anxious to possess it and willing to pay whatever was necessary, this did no good, apparently.

Appearances proved deceitful, for a few weeks later Mr. Potter received a letter from the bookseller, Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, in which he explained that he had come into possession of another copy of the little Halliwell pamphlet which Harvard so much desired, adding that 'I take the greatest pleasure in presenting it to the Harvard College Library with my compliments."

The ensuing correspondence uncovered a collection of Halliwell books and pamphlets, and through Dr. Rosenbach's good offices the Library was able to purchase nine desiderata. The titles of these are typical of the subjects with which Mr. Halliwell-Phillipps concerned himself, and show why his writings are so important for this library. The earliest is dated 1854 and is one of twenty-five copies printed of a 'Brief Account of a [no-longer] unique edition of Sydney's Arcadia.' The 'Handlist of a curious and interesting collection of early editions of the works of Shakespeare, mostly printed before the appearance of the first folio edition' is dated 1867. Fifteen years later is 'The Fool and the Ice. A brief account of a singular adventure at Evesham supposed to have been alluded to by Shakespeare in Troilus and Cressida,' and 'A Brief History of the ancient records of Stratford-on-Avon, chiefly in reply to a leading article in the Stratford-on-Avon Herald.'

'A Letter to the Members of the New Shakespere Society, with a copy of a correspondence on the extraordinary language used under the apparent sanction of that Society,' 1881, supplements another leaflet on the same subject, which is accompanied by a letter to Mr. Winsor, thanking him for help in 'the general attempt to put down Furnivall's literary rowdyism. Upon my word he is nearly fit to be a Member of Parliament. . . . It is a pity, for he is clever and capable of good work — but no one of the slightest independence can stand his dictatorial arrogance or tolerate his introducing vulgar slang into Shakespearean studies.' The spirit in which this controversy was carried on may be judged from the two issues of a tract from the other side, entitled 'The 'Co.' of Pigsbrook & Co.' . . . 'whom, for shortness sake, I call Hell.–P.,' and explaining the derivation from 'Ang. Sax. *swin*, a swine or pig; *burne*, a bourne or brook.'

All of the foregoing items are of relatively insignificant importance compared with the set of 48 volumes of 'Litho-

graphic facsimiles of the early quarto editions of Shakespeare, including every known edition of all the plays issued during his lifetime.' These facsimiles were executed between 1862 and 1871 by Edmund W. Ashbee, under Mr. Halliwell's oversight and direction. Fifty copies were printed of each play, but of these 19 were subsequently destroyed, so that sets are now well-nigh unprocurable. Harvard's long wait has been rewarded by the acquisition of a set that was Halliwell's own. It gives the library every Shakespeare fac-simile reprint that has been issued, so far as known.

The Harvard interest in Halliwelliana dates from the early days of Justin Winsor as librarian. Mr. Winsor came to Harvard from the Boston Public Library, which had in its Barton Shakespeare collection a very large number of Halliwell's publications, and he realized that these were perhaps of even more importance to the University library. He went about the task systematically, by finding out what there was to get, and what was already within reach of Harvard students in the Athenaeum and Public Libraries of Boston. The result was his "Bibliography of the publications of James Orchard Halliwell-Phillipps' printed in the *Harvard Library Bulletin* in 1881. This listed 264 distinct titles, dating from 1838 to 1881. The library has two interleaved copies, one Mr. Winsor's own, and the other containing notes collected by Mr. Potter. These supply 34 additional titles for the years to 1881, besides 38 of later date, nearly all of which Harvard possesses.

THE SHAKESPEARE SHELVES

The accessions referred to in the preceding article led to a careful re-examination of the checked copy of Mr. Winsor's 'Halliwelliana,' and this in turn to various trips to the congested shelves assigned to Shakespeare. Halliwell's name came to be synonymous with that of the dramatist, during the closing decades of the nineteenth century. In early life, after Halliwell turned from the history of mathematics to that of literature, he devoted himself to providing fellow-students with copies of the unfamiliar documents and tracts in which, as he perceived some time ahead of his contemporaries, lay concealed the answers to most of the puzzles that had perplexed literary and linguistic investigators. In his middle period, after he gave up the effort to understand anything except the plays of Shakespeare, he concentrated his attention on the search for everything that might elucidate the text of the great dramatist. In later life, he gave himself up as exclusively to the accumulation of every particle of data that would help to understand the career of the man who wrote those plays.

Luckily, as ordinarily happens, some of the Halliwell titles which it seemed desirable to verify, were not to be found where they should have been. Before all of them had come to hand, most of the miscellaneous sections of the Shakespeare classification had been looked through in search for misplaced volumes. Also as usual, the results more than justified the time it took to do this. The immediate result was the addition of half a dozen checked titles to the Halliwell list. None of these were intrinsically of great importance, and in each case it was easy to see how they had escaped the notice of Mr. Winsor and his successors. Typical is the curious catalogue of the 1861 auction sale at which Halliwell dispersed all but two, in each case, of his '26 copies only' reprints, offering the

24 of each title in successive lots. This catalogue had been on the Harvard shelves ever since it arrived by mail, with no hint of the seller's name. The significant thing is that it was put away in 1861 where it could be found sixty years later, when it has come to be an item to be sought for. Another lot of odds and ends makes it possible to add HCL to one of Mr. Winsor's notes describing, all too briefly, the succession of announcements and reports which tell part of the story of the preservation of Shakespeare's Garden and the rest of the Birthplace estate, as well as Anne Hathaway's Cottage.

Ephemeral material of the sort just mentioned rarely has any value for those whose interest is limited to pure literature, but it affords one of the best tests of the working value of such a collection as that at Harvard. It has another importance all its own. There is a wide field for intensive research, as yet scarcely touched, in the history of Shakespearean criticism. The student in this field may not learn much that is not already familiar about the poet, the Elizabethan drama, or the precise meaning of Shakespeare's language, but he cannot help discovering a great deal that ought to be enlightening about the ways of scholarship and the curious fashions that affect the opinions of scholars.

In the same parcel with the circulars of the 'National Shaksperian Fund' of 1861, the Library received a number of other curiosities. One is the description of the 'Stratford Portrait' discovered in that same year; others announce the publication of the engraved portrait of 1816, and of the series of Stratford fresco paintings reproduced in 1807; another is the separate report of the meeting at Stratford in 1820 'to consider the best method of erecting, in the form of a Theatre, a National Monument, to the immortal memory of Shakspeare.'

The Shakespeare shelves, like the rest of the English Literature section, suffer from the fact that it has not yet been possible to reclassify this subject, so that the num-

bers and arrangement are those of the old fixed location of the Gore Hall years. This is now so obviously antiquated, that it is well to recollect that when it was adopted, it was far in advance of the then current practice of other college libraries. This arrangement emphasizes the difficulty with any classified group of books in a library that grows steadily — that the subject itself grows just as steadily, and in directions which it is impossible to foresee. The question of Shakespeare's handwriting has been, for a century, chiefly a matter of forgeries. The half-score pamphlets which deal with the question seriously came along at widely separated periods and, as there was no obvious place in which to group them, found as widely separated locations on the shelves. Now, within the past two years, the expert paleographers have pretty nearly agreed that the British Museum possesses a part of a play, which has never been included in the accepted canon of his works, that is in the autograph of Shakespeare. The resultant publications are grouped together, except for the earlier ones that came out before the classifiers had any reason for suspecting that there was going to be material for a new heading. But this new heading cannot offer any help to the students who go to the shelves to compare the arguments that now seem so convincing with those of earlier decades, the examination of which is desirable before any final opinion can be formed on the general subject. For those older writings, there is no alternative to the haphazard search along the shelves in the hope of chancing upon whatever may be there upon this subject.

Good Printing, or typographic specimens, is another new subject that looks rather enviously at some of the books on the Shakespeare shelves. It would be easy to select fifty of these volumes which illustrate the growth of interest in fine book-making since William Morris's day, although Morris's own specimen pages for an edition of the plays are not here. There are, however, nearly all the Doves Press series, and examples from the Vale, Essex

House, Shakespeare Head and Monadnock Presses, as well as some of the most delightful illustrations of the way in which the Oxford and the Chiswick presses maintain their preeminence by less self-conscious means. From the English Cambridge comes proof of Bruce Rogers's activity during his brief residence there. The Evert J. Wendell gift contributed two charming examples of lithographed books. These, like 'The Tempest' decorated by Anning Bell, and many others just referred to, are of more interest for the way in which the book was made than for its Shakespearean contents. Many of the recent accessions from German presses are most characteristic of modern tendencies in that country. The latest addition to the group to which this paragraph is devoted, a Latin translation of the 'Sonnets' which comes as a Christmas present to the Library, shows that the shoe may sometimes get onto the other foot, for this was given as a specimen of the fine typography of the newest effort to make good printing popular, through 'The Aldine Library.'

The miscellaneous pamphlets collected under 'Shakespeare' have come from four principal sources. A considerable portion came from Justin Winsor; Evert J. Wendell's gift included a great many unusual items; Walter Faxon's bequest of two years ago helped to bring the collection up to date, besides adding its full share of earlier titles; larger than any of these in the aggregate is the number that have come in currently, from the days when Thomas Hollis of London made up his boxes for Harvard after the fire of 1764 to the present, some labelled simply 'received by mail,' others from certain highly valued friends who insist upon being known as 'anonymous gift,' and others again from other, not less modest in fact, friends like the late Dr. Samuel A. Green, who always kept an envelope near at hand into which he slipped the odds and ends which he realized would some day be of interest to somebody. A few items from the dramatic library of Robert W. Lowe, which was pre-

sented to Harvard by Mr. John Drew, ought not to be overlooked in this connection.

A dozen titles from Mr. Winsor's pamphlet volumes or from the Wendell unbound bundles, will illustrate the variegated character of this material. There is a 'Review of Hamlet' printed at Baltimore in 1870, and 'Macbeth, A Study' at New Orleans in 1887; 'La Comédie Française à Londres. Prologue de la Soirée d'inauguration' of 1879; the 'Shakespeare Number' of 'The Rambler, A Journal of the Times,' Royal Leamington Spa, 1892; 'A Guide to the Parish Church of Charlecote'; 'Shakespeare Prize Examination, Hollins Institute, Va.' 1881; 'Analytic Questions on Julius Caesar,' Lincoln, Nebraska, 1896; 'Shakspeare Memorial,' Lowell, Mass., 1864; a set of the 'Shakespearian (patent medicine) Annual Almanacs,' not to be ignored as a possible source of widespread familiarity with trite passages; and the first and fifth editions of the 'Prospectus for Publishing an American Edition of Boydell's Illustrations of Shakespeare.' Not less important in these volumes are the newspaper clippings saved by Mr. Winsor, particularly the copies of the Stratford-on-Avon Herald and the Birmingham Gazette which were sent to him by Mr. Sam Timmins, to whom Birmingham largely owes its important Shakespearean library. Among these is a set of the annual reviews of 'The Shakespeare Year' written by Mr. Timmins, several of these being the separate off-prints.

Equally suggestive, from the Wendell bequest, are the 'Catalogue of Clara Fisher's Shakesperean Cabinet' of 1830; Malone's 'List of Shakspeare Plays With their Supposed Dates'; the separate reprint of the Shakespeare section in Lowndes' 'Bibliographer's Manual,' 'fifty-two copies printed'; the verses, on pink paper, entitled 'Address by Dr. Westland Marston on the Inauguration of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre,' 1879, delivered by Miss Kate Field; the 'Proceedings at the Fourth Shakespearean Festival given by The Urban Club' in 1863;

'Our Club Shakespeare Night' 1881; 'My Notes on Shakespeare, written at Eastertide, 1867,' according to a manuscript note by 'Mr. Gray, (highly connected) of Edinb.'; 'Traditionary Anecdotes of Shakespeare collected in 1693' and first printed in 1838; 'Talk about Shakespeare' at the Shakespeare Club of the First Congregational Church at Newport, R. I. 1886; and 'Theories about Shakspere' at the University of South Carolina in 1910.

As the years pass, the series of carefully indexed scrapbooks kept by Walter Faxon will be found to contain the material for an appreciation of Shakespearean scholarship during the thirty years that center on 1900. He maintained the keenest interest in everything that in anyway related to his subject (except apparently the sayings of the Baconians), and carefully preserved whatever he could lay hands on. Among his papers are many letters from correspondents, among whom one of the chief was Mark H. Liddell. Mr. Faxon collaborated actively in the preparation of the 'Elizabethan Shakespeare,' and the correspondence throws light on the method of its preparation and the insuperable difficulties which forced Professor Liddell to abandon the project, which is nevertheless one of the landmarks in later Shakespearean studies.

Mr. Winsor preserved a few playbills, of which the most interesting is a threefold sheet announcing performances of King Richard the Second, in May, 1857, with a full page statement signed by Charles Kean, describing his 'endeavor to produce a true portraiture of mediaeval history . . . Between the third and fourth acts I have ventured to introduce the triumphal entry into London of the mounting Bolingbroke, followed by the deposed and captive King, thus embodying in action what Shakespeare has so beautifully described in the speech of York to his Duchess.'

The foregoing paragraphs deal largely with trivialities. These are not meant to distract attention from the more important and fundamental works which constitute the

real backbone of the Library's Shakespearean collection. Being important and fundamental to the work of active students of the problems of Elizabethan literature, virtually all of them are to be found in any well-equipped library, and the list of their titles loses interest in proportion as their importance increases. For more than half a century, Shakespeare has been the chosen subject of the leading professor in the Department of English, and Professor Kittredge, like Professor Child before him, has maintained the closest relations with the Library. To them, more than to anyone on its own staff, is due the extraordinarily well-rounded character of the collections in this field, as well as the completeness from the standpoint of the working student.

An added incentive to keep the Shakespeareana fully up to date has existed since 1906 in the annual gifts made for this purpose by Walter W. Naumburg, '89, of New York. He has provided the money to pay for the necessary current accessions, and has made it possible to take advantage of occasional opportunities to fill gaps with books of older date.

There is nothing in all its history of which Harvard has better occasion to be proud than the dominating position it has occupied in the teaching of English for over fifty years. The obvious reason for this is the outstanding ability of three or four men, but no man nor group of men altogether accounts for the long and unbroken continuance of this preeminence. Something is due to the Harvard 'system' which these individuals have established, and the principal thing in this system is the Library.

The open shelves of the Reading Rooms and the use of the books in the stack by exceptional undergraduates and advanced students give the Library its distinctive character as a laboratory for instruction in the humanities. This fact controls and complicates the arrangement and administration of the entire building. This is particularly true, both as to complications and advantages, of the

English Literature section, which occupies the eastern side of stack-floor 2.

When the assignment of space in the new building was made, less than ten years ago, the allowance for growth in English literature, which with British history has two-thirds of that floor, seemed generous. The obvious importance of having these two groups of books in the closest proximity led however to a serious oversight, for there is no removable buffer between them. The literature section ends with 'Twentieth Century,' already nearly a quarter passed, and the allotted shelves are too full for proper arrangement of accessions. There is no relief except to back up into the preceding chronological divisions, for immediately ahead is 'Br.' This begins with the long sets of historical documents and the great publishing societies, which are in constant use, and which grow with glacial steadiness and inevitableness. The only apparent relief is at the other end, where the Gaelic languages are having their own troubles trying to keep within the bounds allotted them before the extent of the Irish revival was foreseen. In consequence this will provide at best but temporary relief, without meeting the real difficulty of provision for a period of years.

Of the 36 rows of shelves in the English literature group, Shakespeare alone fills three, in nearly every section with the possible seventh shelf already occupied, giving a total of approximately 365 running feet of books. This is independent of the printing societies, of which there is a full row which is predominantly Shakespearean, or the rows of general works, in which he likewise has a considerable place. The literary periodicals of all sorts are on a different floor altogether. In comparison with the other divisions of this main group, Shakespeare occupies twice as much space as all the other writers of the period from 1550 to 1660; rather less than those from the Restoration to 1745, which includes the Milton collection given by George Ticknor; as much as the men who wrote between

1745 and 1789; half that of 1789 to 1832, and a third that of 1732 to 1900.

This comparison is made from the books accessible to users in the stack. The books of special value, both old and new, are kept in the Treasure Room. There they constitute the group that is most frequently consulted, and supply most of the problems which make the administration of that room difficult. The need of keeping these books more easily within reach of those who are qualified to use them and who are justified in asking to have their use of them facilitated, and at the same time of providing for intelligent supervision and of maintaining the adequate protection of irreplaceable volumes, is one of the most obvious requirements of the Library at the present time. If these rare books were to be segregated in a room by themselves, it would inevitably come to be permeated by the spirit of the great Elizabethans.

Since 1900, American book collectors have been pursuing Elizabethan literature, in its contemporary publications, with zest, persistence, and recklessness of cost. The result of this has been, so far as Harvard is concerned, to draw attention to the fact that the College Library is not rich in these books of the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. In consequence, the feeling has grown up, frequently expressed by those who know the Library best, that its Shakespeare collection is of no great account. Until the Harry Elkins Widener collection was received, Harvard had none of the Shakespeare quarto editions and only one of the 'Four Folios,' and that a copy of the latest in date, of 1685. The Widener set of the Folios, headed by the tall Locker-Lampson First, of 1623, was supported by a copy of 'The Whole Contention between the Two Famous Houses Lancaster and Yorke' (better known in its later form as the Second Part of King Henry the Sixth) which is undated but is known to have been printed as a part of the projected collection of Shakespeare's plays in 1619. The Widener gift also included a

copy of the 1634 quarto edition of Fletcher's 'Two Noble Kinsmen,' in which the critics trace many touches of Shakespeare's hand.

The publications of Shakespeare and his contemporaries, in quarto and folio, are not unrepresented, but it remains regrettably true that the Harvard Library is weak in late sixteenth and early seventeenth century English literary publications. It is equally true, that as a place where the literary and political history of Elizabeth's time can be studied intensively, Harvard has no need to make any apologies.

DEPARTMENTAL TALES

Tenacity is a virtue in the Order Department.

On November 11, 1879, Professor Child brought in a card for a German edition of Scottish Border Ballads, printed in 1826, and Mr. Tillinghast asked Deuerlich of Göttingen, then the principal German agent of the Library, to supply it. He reported in February and again a month later, in reply to a second urgent letter, that he had sought for the work everywhere in vain. Nevertheless the order was repeated in June, 1880, and again at the end of 1881. In the following April, Mr. Tillinghast noted the agent's report 'is not to be had as it is vermaculirt.'

In June, 1883, Professor Child renewed his pressure for the work, adding to the card a note, 'I wish Harrassowitz to advertise for this.' Mr. Winsor contributed a memorandum, at this time or when the order was renewed in 1886 or in 1888, 'Prof. Child will pay for this if received.' In April, 1889, Harrassowitz replied to another letter of inquiry, 'I have been advertising for this since the order was given to me, but have not succeeded in finding it. I shall continue to look for it with particular care, as I know you stand in instant need of it.' Another order was dated September, 1890, and it was reordered in July, 1894, in October, 1896 and in June, 1898. As Harrassowitz failed

to find the book, the order was transferred in April, 1904, to Brockhaus of Leipzig, but with no better luck. Ten years passed, before the next demand was made, and in February, 1914 the order was restored to Harrassowitz, to be repeated in April, 1920.

By this time, Mr. Potter began to weary of the quest, and in September, 1921, he wrote the agent asking that, in view of the time that had elapsed since the order was first given, a personal effort might be made to clear this title from the outstanding list of desiderata. The renewed search did not immediately bring the book, but in December Mr. Harrassowitz wrote that he had recollected seeing a set of the 'Poetische Werke' of Scott, brought out by the same editors whose 'Balladen der Schottischen Grenzländer' had been the subject of the prolonged search, and suggesting that this might be the solution of the difficulty. This work was at once ordered and in March, 1922, Mr. Hans Harrassowitz wrote that he had at last secured the set, in twenty volumes, which he was sending to the Library with his compliments, as a present. In it is included the title that Professor Child never saw.

'La Revue Américaine, Journal Mensuel,' of which twelve numbers appeared at Paris in 1826–27, was a title that seemed to Mr. Winsor a desirable acquisition for Harvard, in August, 1888, when he clipped a description of it from a Paris bookseller's catalogue, priced at 18 francs. This was ordered without delay by Mr. Tillinghast, but the copy was reported as already sold. The Paris agent was thereupon asked to find another. The order was repeated, with occasional changes in the bookseller to whom it was addressed, in October and November, 1888, in May, 1892, March, 1895, July, 1901, April, 1904, March and April, 1914. A copy at last turned up in an Italian catalogue, in August, 1921, and although it lacked two of the issues, the long period of waiting seemed sufficient proof that it had better be taken without complaint, and it was secured. The reward came in February, 1923,

when a perfect copy appeared in Chamonel's catalogue and was purchased, at 60 francs.

In November, 1917, Professor Kittredge underscored the 'haste' on an order-card for William Hamilton Hayne's 'Sylvan Lyrics,' published by the Frederick A. Stokes Company of New York in 1893. The order was promptly sent along to Oscar Wegelin of New York, from whom many similar books are secured. As he did not supply it, the order was transferred the following May to N. F. Morison of Newark, N. J. As he could do no better than promise to report a copy if one turned up, Gittman's Bookshop of Columbia, South Carolina, was given the title in October. As this shows, Mr. Potter had begun to run down his quarry by trying to learn something about the author's career, and had found that he was a Southerner. After waiting a year, in January and again in April, 1920, Wegelin was once more asked to find a copy. In September, 1921, the Cadmus Bookshop was given a chance to see what it could do, with no better success, and in October Gittman was reminded that he had not yet filled the old order.

A fresh start was made in February, 1923, with Edgar H. Wells. In October, he was asked if he had tried advertising for a copy of the work, to which he replied 'Yes, at least three times, the last time three weeks ago. In addition, I have written to F. R. Frost, Harvard '86 of Charleston, Professor Reed Smith, Ph. D. '09, of the University of South Carolina, to booksellers in Charleston, Atlanta, and New Orleans. I can get no positive information whether the author is alive or dead. I shall now try some Harvard men in Atlanta.' A fortnight later Mr. Wells wrote again, stating that Hayne 'died about 1905, according to F. A. Stokes Co. Will you be good enough to let me know the address given for him in the last 'Who's Who in America' in which he appears, probably Vol. IV. His widow or his offspring may be alive.' To this suggestion, Mr. Potter replied that his authorities stated that Hayne

had never married. Mr. Wells next applied to another Harvard man, Landon Thomas, '09, of Atlanta, where Hayne had lived when last heard of. The reply is dated November 10, 1923.

'Dear Mr. Wells:—

'I was interested in your letter regarding 'Sylvan Lyrics and Other Verses' by William Hamilton Hayne.

'The report of the author's death, like that of Mark Twain's, was an exaggeration. Doubtless the error arose from the fact that his father, dead many years, was also a poet.

'Mr. Hayne is a friend of mine, and was in the office a few moments ago. He has only the original author's copy of 'Sylvan Lyrics,' and was unsuccessful a few years ago in a search for an additional copy. I doubt if one can be found, but we have had a copy at home since the book's publication, and this I will be glad to give to the Library. I am forwarding it to you today by registered mail.

'I think some of Mr. Hayne's best verses have been written since the publication of 'Sylvan Lyrics,' but he has never had the means to publish these in book form. You will find a few examples pasted in the back of 'Sylvan Lyrics.'

Sincerely yours,
Landon Thomas.

Mr. Thomas's copy proved to be one presented to him by the author, with an inscription on the fly-leaf signed by him.

SOTTOBOSCO'S QUABBIN

Augustin H. Parker, '97, has sent the Child Memorial Library two characteristic letters written by Professor Francis J. Child to Francis H. Underwood in the spring of 1893, concerning a book of which, oddly enough, no copy had ever been on the Harvard shelves until after this gift called attention to its importance.

My dear Sottobosco:—

Too much time has gone by without my sending thanks for Quabbin. I have been reading it, am reading it, at odd times, as last night to my family, and last night I had it a good bit to myself, and so when there is a peaceful half hour. I read it with much interest and think it as valuable a contribution to history as it is an agreeable entertainment. The truth to fact is self-evident and the fact is not got at second hand. I have been reading as I opened the book (after a regular beginning with the first chapter) not because there are things that I shall skip, but because I like to take my pleasure that way.

Just now my eye lights on the discussion between Wentworth and a

minister, the minister who could not favor the reading of Scott's romances when so much is to be done for eternal welfare. I have just been reading Ivanhoe again and Rob Roy, and find them, both, conducive to eternal welfare besides what they do for personal enjoyment.

Thank you very much for Quabbin. I can't guess what the place is.

Yours faithfully ever,

F. J. Child.

My dear Sottobosco: —

I have been miserable for a month and more because I have not shown myself sufficiently grateful for the gift of Quabbin. After trying it at various places, I read the book in order, as the plan of it requires, read much of it aloud, and could not wait the convenience of my irregular listeners, who could go to lectures and concerts, and so I finished it to myself, and they lost, for a time, the last chapter, which is one of the very best of all.

I admire the book greatly, and it has made me like and respect the author more than ever, that is, the man in the author. I doubt whether there is any book from which so much can be learned of a history of New England life. You have been praised highly by better judges than I am, and all the praise seems to me fully deserved.

I can return to Quabbin with pleasure from time to time, and it is left lying about, not put up with the classics, so that it may give a pleasant surprise to a chance visitor. Hoping to see you some day, I remain,

Ever yours faithfully,

F. J. Child.

STAFF CHANGES

Mr. Gookin reports that forty-one names have been added to the Library pay-roll and thirty-two dropped, since the list of the staff was printed last June. Most of these changes are among the Junior Assistants, Reading Room Attendants, and Stack Pages. There are also several new names on the roll of the Catalogue Department.

Miss Constance von Lilienfeld, formerly of Petrograd, later of Berlin, is assisting Miss Wood with the cataloguing and classification of books belonging to the modern European History groups. She is also acting as Russian expert of the Catalogue Department in place of Miss Catharine Ivanovsky. Miss Ivanovsky left the Library in July and is at present filling a position in the New York Public Library.

Other additions to the staff of the department are Miss H. Louise Chamberlain, B. S. (Simmons, 1911), who has had eleven years experience in the Boston Athenaeum; Miss Mabel M. Barkley, A.B. (Smith, 1904); Miss Katherine Elliott, A.B. (University of Texas, 1920); Miss Nannie E. Larsson, Miss Lois E. Dennison and Miss Ethel M. Jameson, A.B. (Wellesley, 1908).

Miss Elliott is the only one of the above group in Miss Wilde's department. Her knowledge of Spanish was very useful in the compilation of the Portuguese list for Mr. Stetson.

Miss Barkley is dividing her time between cataloguing and classification; Miss Dennison is working with Mrs. Hunnewell on the Education work and with Miss Wait; while Miss Larsson has been cataloguing, among others, the books in the Scandinavian languages. Miss Jameson takes Miss Boothby's place as Mr. Currier's secretary.

The new Student Assistants in this department are Martha Baker, Genevieve E. Cogan, Archibald P. DeWeese, Ernest W. Gross, Charles H. Morris, Jr., Robert Morris and Lionel C. Rubin.

Thomas P. Lally and Stephen R. Yocobowski are Letterers.

In the Farnsworth Room this year Mrs. Milner has the assistance of Edwin W. Burch, Jr., Stanton C. Phelps, Robert D. Richardson and Kenneth B. Webb.

Miss Helen H. Boyd is assisting Mrs. Hall in the Theatre Collection.

Miss Blodgett has become Mrs. Kingsbury, but will continue for the present as secretary to Mr. Carney.

Joshua R. Whitmore continues as Engineer, and his name should have been included in the list as printed last June.

Mr. Murphy has taken Miss Rogers' place in the Lower Reading Room; Miss Brooks is now in charge of the Child Memorial Library; Mr. Codding has taken charge of the Stack Attendants and is assisting in improving the distribution of books in the stack classifications; and Miss Muir is in charge of the Records of Circulation.

The new Reading Room Attendants are Peter Cucinotta, Edward Dever, Charles L. Grace, John Kiley, Allan Evans, John D. Macbeth and T. Everett Mahady. Daniel Abramson and Edwin W. Burch, Jr. are the Assistants for Class Room Libraries, and Justin Y. Wagy is the new evening attendant for the Child Memorial Library.

In the Circulation Department the new Assistants are James F. McRae, Martha Allen and Marie G. La Bonté.

William L. Nolan is Messenger for the Librarian's Office. The new names on the stack force are Lawrence F. Koerner, a graduate student in the Engineering School from Colorado College, Dorothy Brassil, Harold Langley, Cecile A. Mercier and Marion O'Leary.

Hattie Gutowske and Edwin A. Prentice have joined the Bindery staff and Eugene F. Sullivan has been transferred to the Bindery from messenger service in the Library.

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THE NEXT ISSUE OF LIBRARY NOTES will begin a second volume. It is hoped when that appears to add an Index to the first twelve numbers.

Composition and Presswork by The Cosmos Press, Inc., 99 Mt. Auburn Street

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